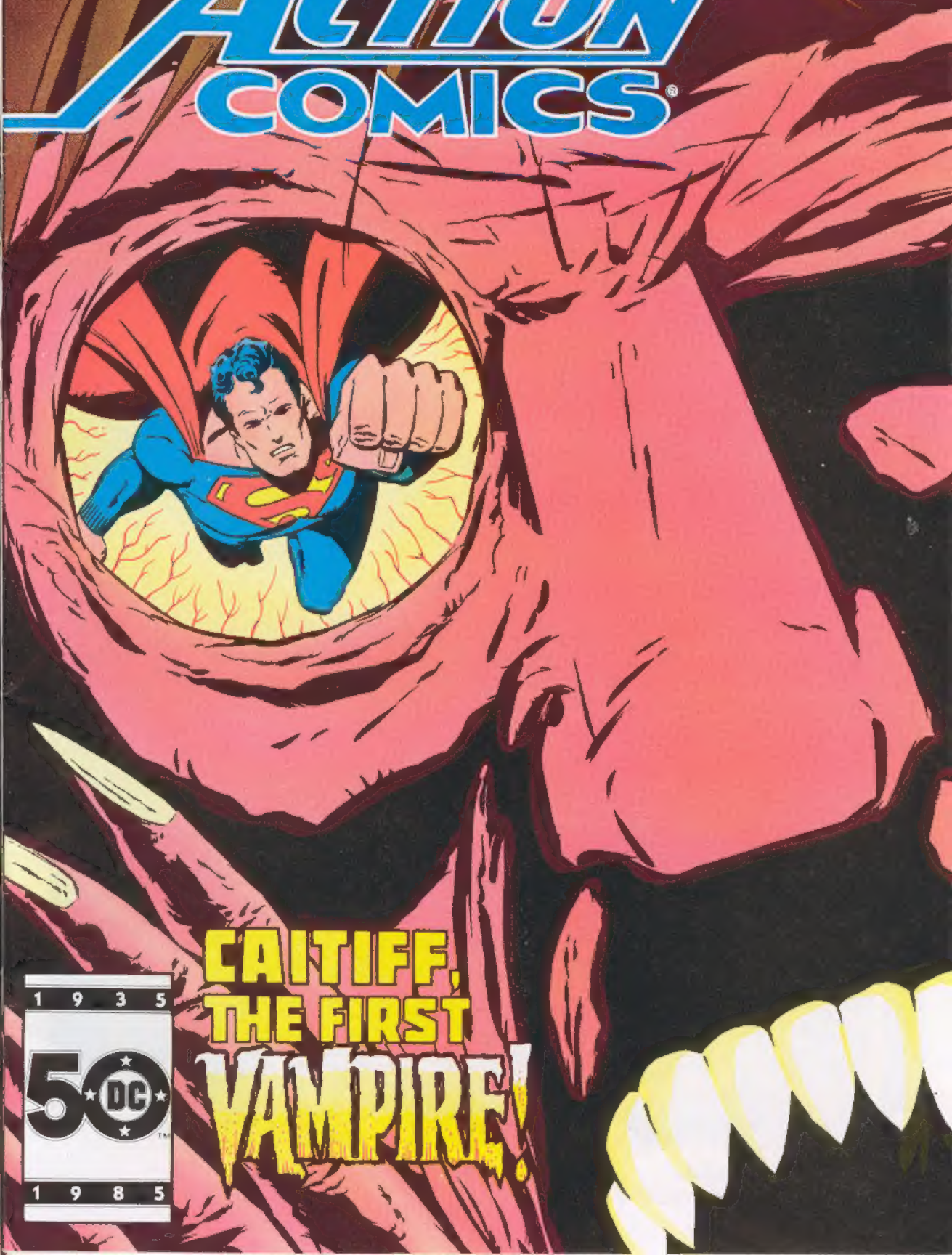




SUPERMAN
STARRING IN

ACTION COMICS®

577
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CAN. 95¢
U.K. 35p
MAR. 86
APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



**CAITIFF,
THE FIRST
VAMPIRE!**



STRIKING!

Lightning™ – The Hot New Radio Controlled Racer From Monogram

Introducing Lightning,™ the slick RC off-road dune buggy that roars over gravel, dirt, pavement, grass and more at scale speeds exceeding 150 mph! You'll experience the daredevil thrill of high speed driving with your own dual stick radio transmitter. Wipe outs, spins, rolls, and crashes are all part of the fun as the rugged Lightning just bounces back and races on. You can build this powerful 1/10 scale speedster in less than an hour, whereas comparably performing radio controlled cars are far more complicated to assemble. Take a spin with Lightning. It's high speed radio controlled adventure from Monogram.



DESIGNED FOR DETAIL.
BUILT FOR FUN.™

Lightning™



Battery Pack and Charger

Silver Lightning

Transmitter



AIEEEE!!

THIS ONE
IS **UNDONE!**
UNDONE!

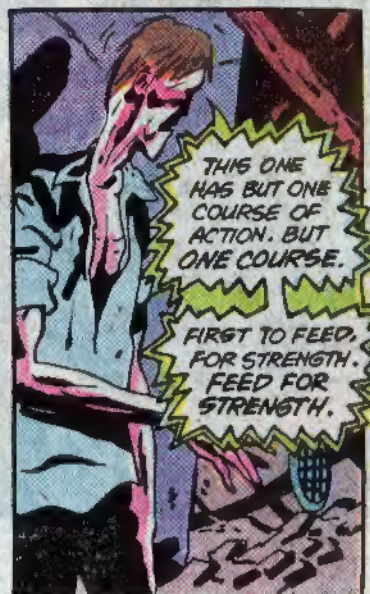
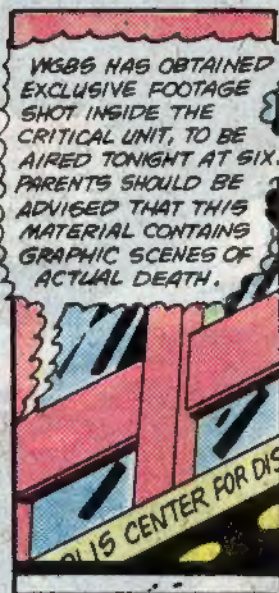
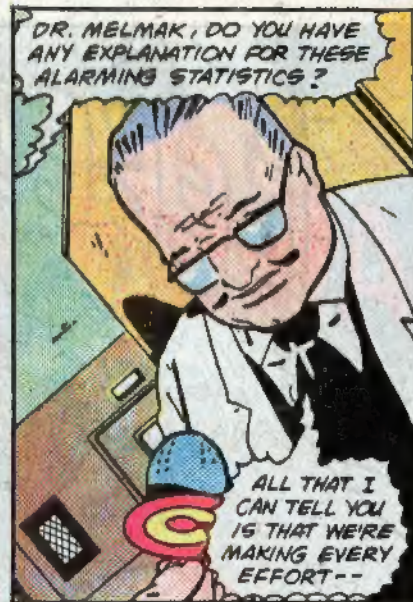
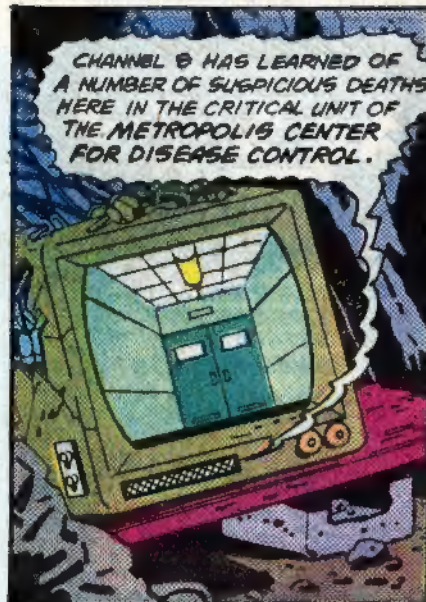
IN TIMES LONG PAST,
WOODEN STAKES HAVE
2 FACED! WOODEN
STAKES!

SILVER BULLETS
THIS ONE HAS
WITHSTOOD!
SILVER BULLETS!

AND GARLIC
MOST FOUL!
MOST FOUL!

YET NEVER IN CENTURIES
OF LIFE HAS THIS ONE
ENCOUNTERED SUCH
MENACE AS THIS!

NEVER!!





OKAY WITH YOU IF I
KNOCK OFF EARLY
TODAY, LES?



SURE, CHESTER,
GO AHEAD. IT'S
BEEN REAL DEAD
AROUND HERE
ANYWAY. GET IT?
REAL DEAD!

BETTER WATCH THAT
SENSE OF HUMOR OF
YOURS, LES. SOME FOLKS
TAKE IT THE WRONG WAY.



THOSE WGBS-TV
PEOPLE MIGHT
JUST HAVE A
HIDDEN CAMERA
AIMED AT YOU!

GET
OUTTA
HERE,
CHESTER!



A HIDDEN CAMERA
AIMED AT ME?
YEAH, SURE!
HEH HEH HEH!

WAAAA



UH-OH.
LOSIN' MY
PICTURE IN
ROOM 218.



SMILE FOR THE
BIRDY, MR. PETRONIO.
WHERE ARE YOU?



HAW HAW HAW!
GET A LOAD OF
THAT FACE.

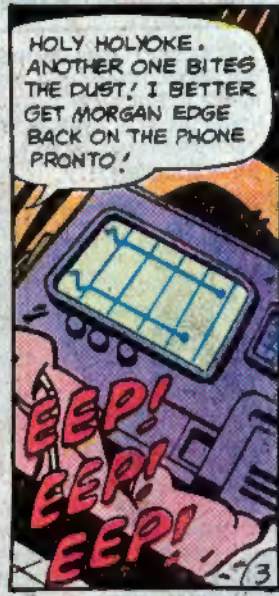
SOMEBODY OUGHTA
INFORM THAT GUY
HE'S OFF THE--



EET!
EET!
EET!



--CRITICAL LIST.



HOLY HOLYOKE.
ANOTHER ONE BITES
THE DUST. I BETTER
GET MORGAN EDGE
BACK ON THE PHONE
PRONTO!

EET!
EET!
EET!



THIS FOOTAGE IS BRAND NEW, MR. EDGE. HOW DID YOU GET YOUR HANDS ON IT SO QUICKLY?



LET US JUST SAY, KENT, THAT I AM NOT WITHOUT CONNECTIONS.



I SUPPOSE IT WOULD BE POINTLESS TO TRY TO TALK YOU OUT OF RUNNING THIS STORY?



NO, KENT, NOT POINTLESS. STUPID!



WE'VE BEEN BROADCASTING TEASERS FOR THE PIECE ALL DAY. WE'VE GOT TO RUN IT.

YOU HAVE MORAL OBJECTIONS?

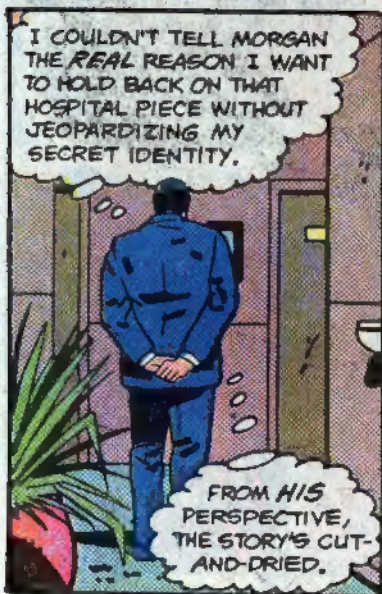


NOT AT ALL. IT'S AN IMPORTANT STORY. I JUST THINK IT NEEDS MORE WORK, MORE TIME.

FINE.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING THE REST OF THE AFTERNOON?



I COULDN'T TELL MORGAN THE REAL REASON I WANT TO HOLD BACK ON THAT HOSPITAL PIECE WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING MY SECRET IDENTITY.

FROM HIS PERSPECTIVE, THE STORY'S CUT-AND-DRIED.



BUT I SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY.



HE ONLY GAVE ME THE AFTERNOON.



NOT ENOUGH TIME FOR CLARK KENT, BUT MORE THAN SUFFICIENT FOR--

STRIKING!

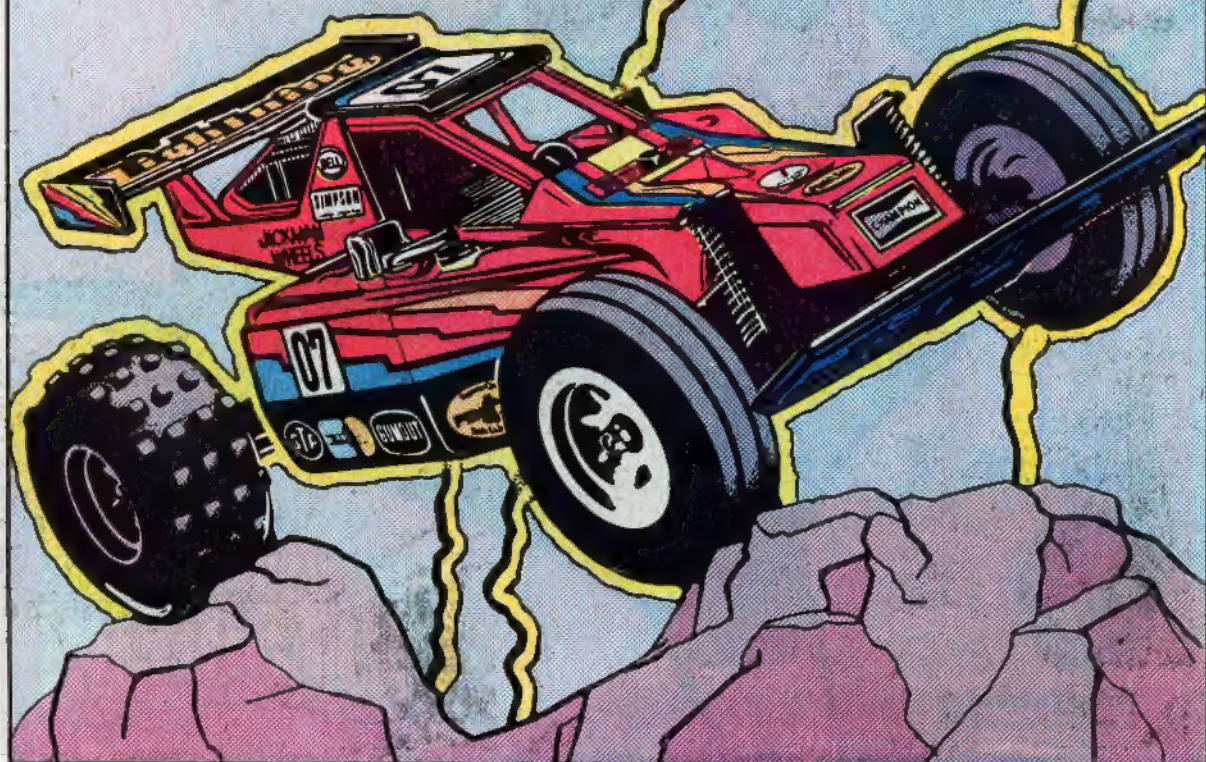
Lightning™ - The Hot New Radio Controlled Racer From Monogram

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DESIGNED FOR DETAIL.
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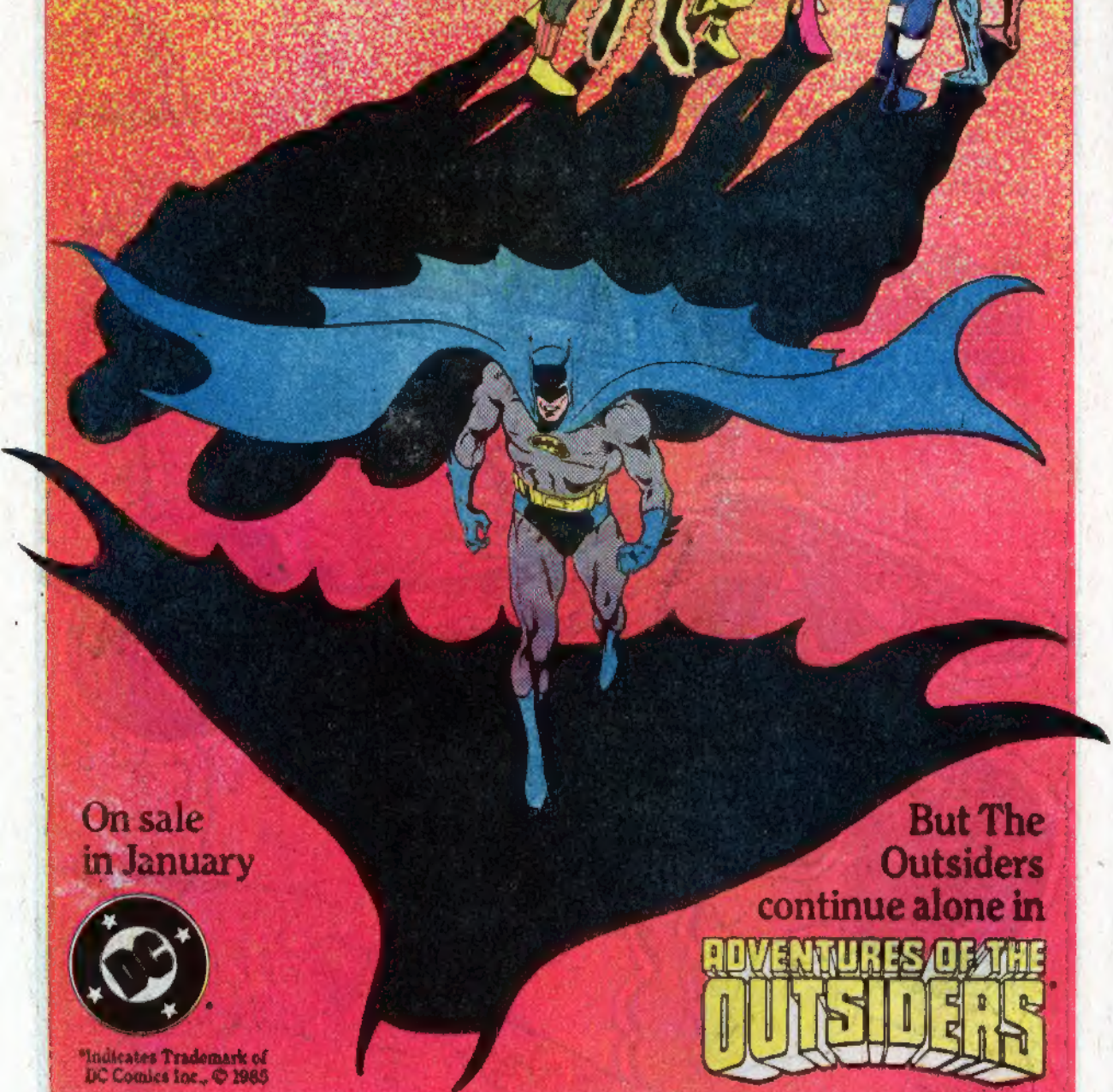
Lightning™



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It had to happen.

**BATMAN
AND THE
OUTSIDERS***
#32



On sale
in January



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DC Comics Inc., © 1985

But The
Outsiders
continue alone in

**ADVENTURES OF THE
OUTSIDERS**

SUPERMAN

CREATED BY
JERRY SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER

ALL MORRAN EDGE SAW ON THAT
VIDEOTAPE WAS A DYING HOSPITAL
PATIENT. BUT I SAW A MAN BEING
MURDERED! I SAW THE
MURDERER!

UNLESS I'M LOSING
MY MIND, THOSE HOSPITAL
PATIENTS ARE THE PREY
OF A MODERN-DAY
VAMPIRE !!

KEITH GIFFEN,
PLOTTER AND
PENCILLER,

ROBERT LOREN
FLEMING,
SCRIPTER,

BOB OXNER
INKER,

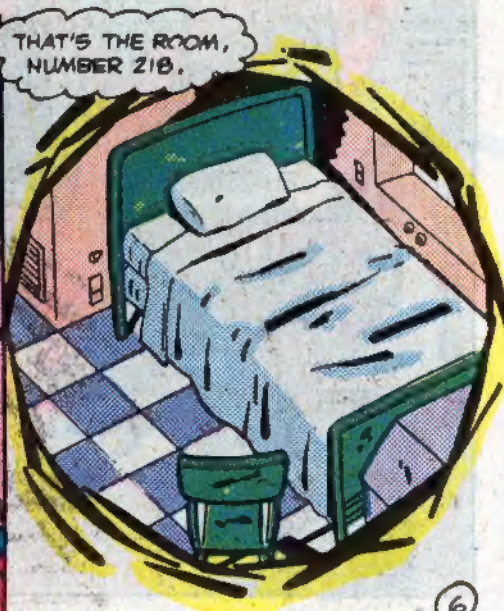
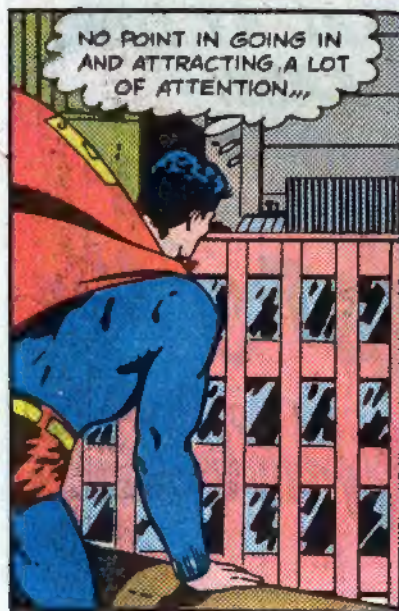
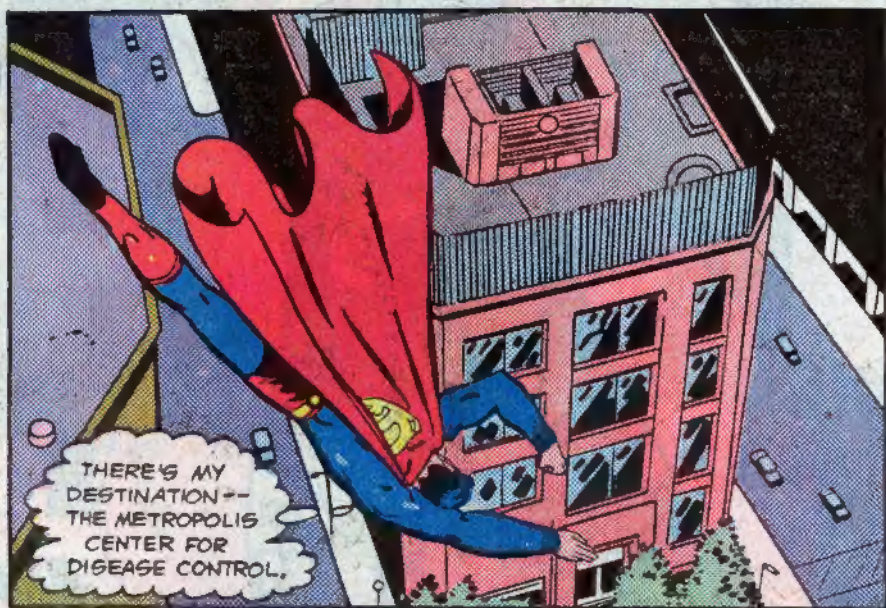
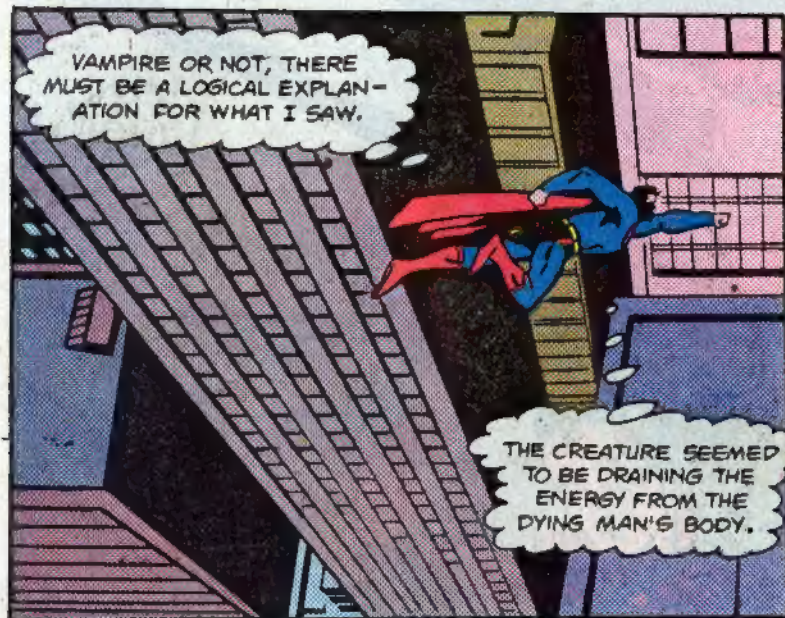
GENE D'ANGELO
COLORIST,

MILT SHAPIRO,
LETTERER,

JULIUS
SCHWARTZ,
EDITOR

ARE PROUD TO
REVEAL AT LONG
LAST--

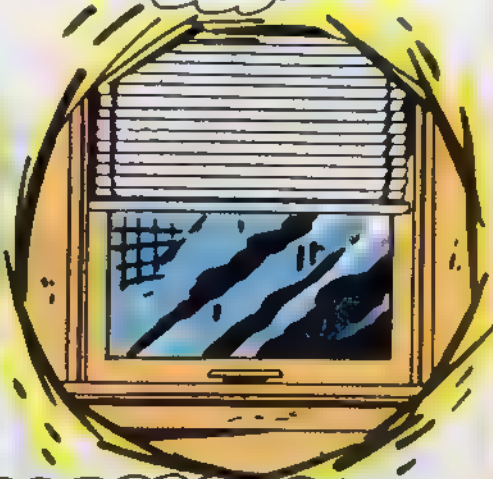
"CAITIFF:
FIRST of the
VAMPIRES!"



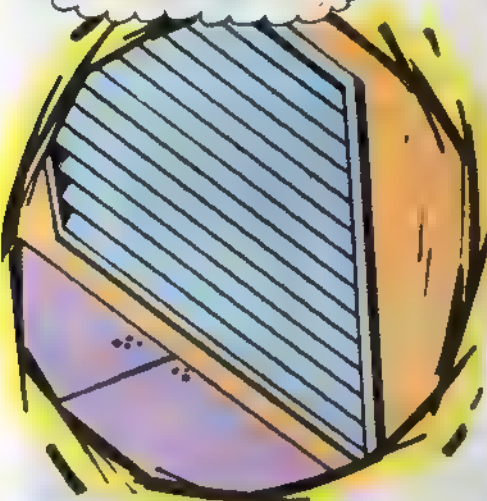
AS ADVISED BY THE BATMAN, THE FIRST THING TO CHECK FOR IS POINT OF ENTRY. ALL OF THE FINGERPRINTS ON THAT DOORKNOB ARE HUMAN!



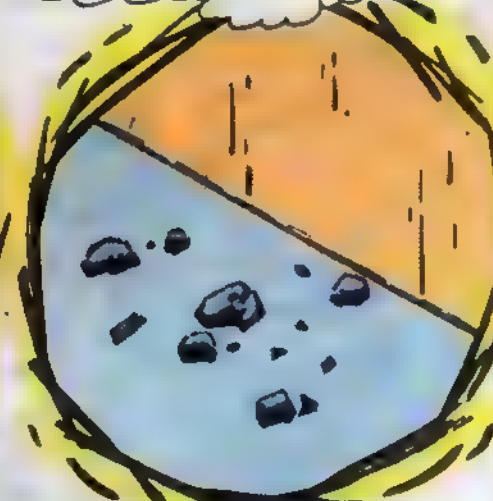
SAME FOR THE WINDOW. SO HOW DID THE CREATURE GET IN?



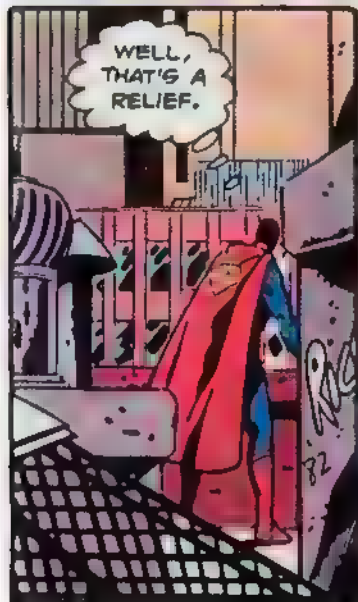
WELL, HE COULD HAVE COME IN THROUGH THE AIR VENT. AND UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS...



...BINGO! THOSE TINY PARTICLES WERE TRACKED IN BY THE INTRUDER. HE CRAWLED UP THE VENTILATION SHAFT.



WELL, THAT'S A RELIEF.



I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT HE IS OR WHERE TO FIND HIM...



...BUT AT LEAST HE EXISTS!

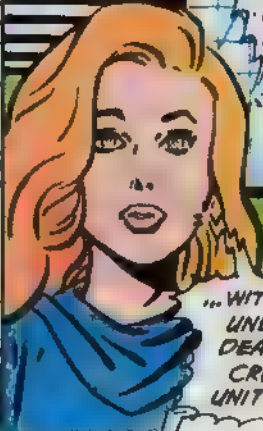


THIS IS A WBSB NEWS BREAK...



...WITH LANA LANG.

GOOD AFTERNOON. THE MYSTERY DEEPEINED TODAY AT THE METROPOLIS CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL...



...WITH ANOTHER UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN THE CRITICAL UNIT THERE.



THE PATIENT, SAM PETRONIO OF 72 STICKER AVENUE, HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM THE CRITICAL LIST ONLY HOURS BEFORE HIS DEATH.

OPERATION IN PROGRESS

MR. PETRONIO WAS IN STABLE CONDITION THIS AFTERNOON WHEN HE SUFFERED THE SAME NEW FORM OF SEIZURE THAT HAS MYSTIFIED MEDICAL EXPERTS, ALTHOUGH SOME OFFICIALS ARE NOW DRAWING COMPARISONS BETWEEN THIS NEW DISEASE...

... AND ACUTE ANEMIA.



TONIGHT AT SIX, THE WBSB 6 O'CLOCK REPORT WILL FEATURE INTERVIEWS WITH PHYSICIANS FROM THE DISEASE CENTER, AS WELL AS EXCLUSIVE FOOTAGE OF AN ACTUAL SEIZURE...



...FILMED EARLIER TODAY INSIDE THE CRITICAL UNIT.



WE HOPE YOU'LL JOIN US THEN. I'M LANA LANG...

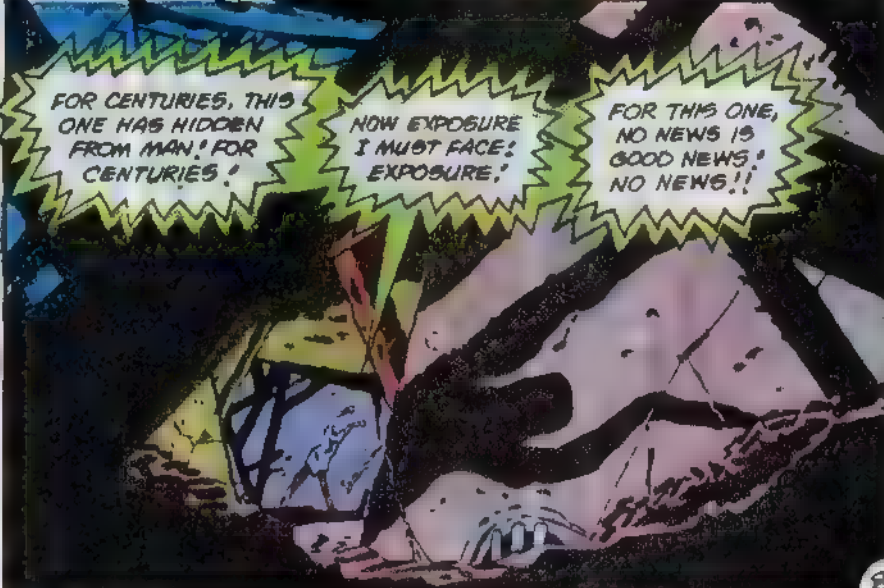


...AND THIS HAS BEEN A WBSB NEWS BREAK.

FOR CENTURIES, THIS ONE HAS HIDDEN FROM MAN! FOR CENTURIES!

NOW EXPOSURE I MUST FACE! EXPOSURE!

FOR THIS ONE, NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS! NO NEWS!!



HELLO BOYS & GIRLS

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Just for you straight from the North Pole—Santa and his helpers will send you a letter with a Christmas Message and a surprise. Just fill in the coupon and mail before Christmas.

SANTA CLAUS
The North Pole

Christmas 1985

Dear (your child's name here)
I am so happy to be able to write this special letter to you this Christmas, and I hope you enjoy all your toys and gifts which you will receive from all the people who love you so much during the year. There are so many good things I have been hearing about you. My personal thanks to you during the Christmas season.



PARENTS



- Addressed to your child and mailed directly to your child.
- A thrilling surprise for any child.
- Santa's name and return address on every letter & envelope.
- Written in simple, easy to read language.
- Envelope marked "Do not open until Christmas."

IF you'd like Santa to write to more than 3 children, please enclose your own list.



FREE SURPRISE WITH EACH LETTER YOU ORDER

GUARANTEE:

Every child on your list must be thrilled with their personalized letter from Santa. Plus their FREE surprise or your full price, less postage and handling, will be refunded.



JINGLES TO CHILDREN
540 Nepperhan Ave., Suite 200T
Yonkers, N.Y. 10701

YES, please ask Santa to write to the following children on my Christmas list:
(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Child's approx. age _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Child's approx. age _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

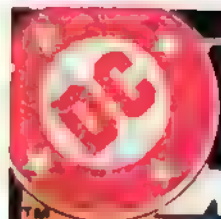
Child's approx. age _____

For each letter, enclose \$2.00 which includes postage, handling and sales tax. This includes 1 free surprise to each child.

My Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



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WILDCARD



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SUCH A PAIN THIS ONE
HAS IN THE BRAIN! SUCH
A PAIN! TO THINK OF A
CURE IS QUITE A DRAIN!

QUITE A
DRAIN.



IN TIMES PAST,
THINGS WERE CLEAR.

IN TIMES
PAST...

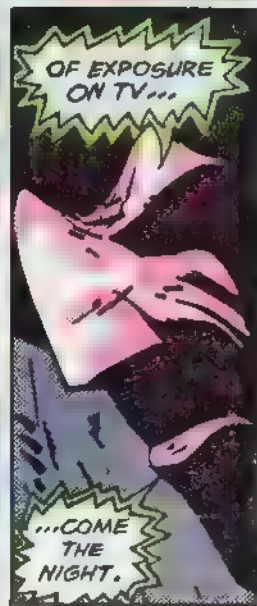


...CAITIFF
KILLED!



FREE THIS ONE
MUST BE, FROM
THE LIGHT.

FROM
THE
LIGHT.



OF EXPOSURE
ON TV...

...COME
THE
NIGHT.

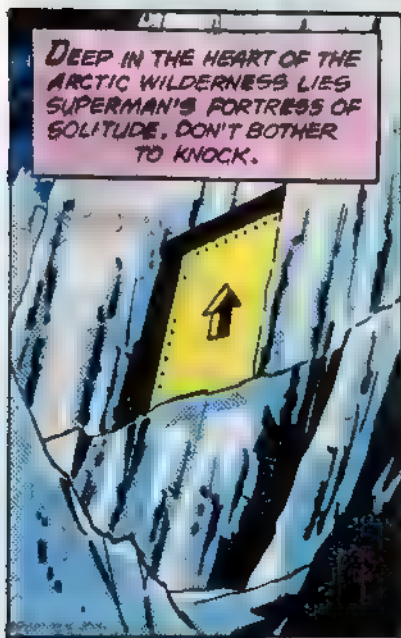


COME
THE
NIGHT.

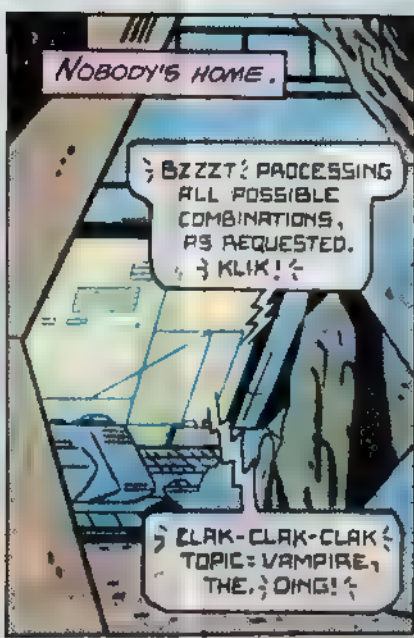
MIST
THIS ONE
SHALL BE!



POOF!



DEEP IN THE HEART OF THE ARCTIC WILDERNESS LIES SUPERMAN'S FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE. DON'T BOTHER TO KNOCK.



NOBODY'S HOME.

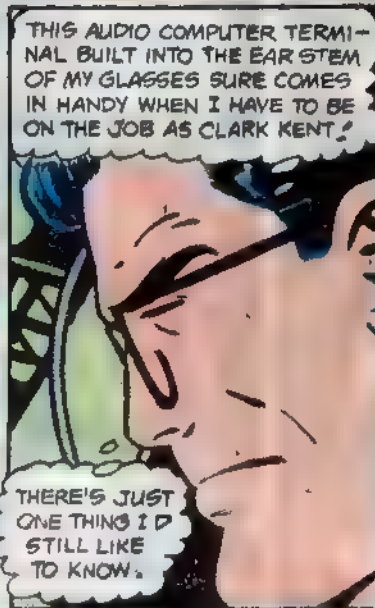
~ BZZT ~ PROCESSING ALL POSSIBLE COMBINATIONS, AS REQUESTED.
~ KLIK! ~

~ CLAK-CLAK-CLAK ~
TOPIC: VAMPIRE, THE. ~ DING! ~

- VAMPIRE, THE
1. IN FOLKLORE, A CORPSE THAT BECOMES REANIMATED AND LEAVES ITS GRAVE AT NIGHT TO SUCK THE BLOOD OF SLEEPING PERSONS.
 2. A PERSON WHO PREYS RUTHLESSLY ON OTHERS; AN EXTORTIONIST OR BLOODSUCKER.
 3. (A) A BEAUTIFUL BUT UNSCRUPULOUS WOMAN WHO SEDUCES MEN AND LEADS THEM TO THEIR RUIN. (B) AN ACTRESS WHO PLAYS THE PART OF SUCH A WOMAN.
 4. A VAMPIRE BAT.
 5. A CATIFF.
 6. A SPRING-TARP IN THE STAGE FLOOR OF A THEATER.

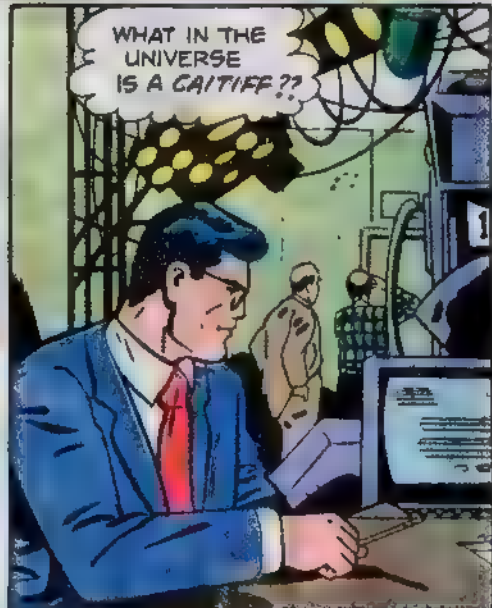


-- SPRING-TARP IN THE STAGE FLOOR OF A THEATER.

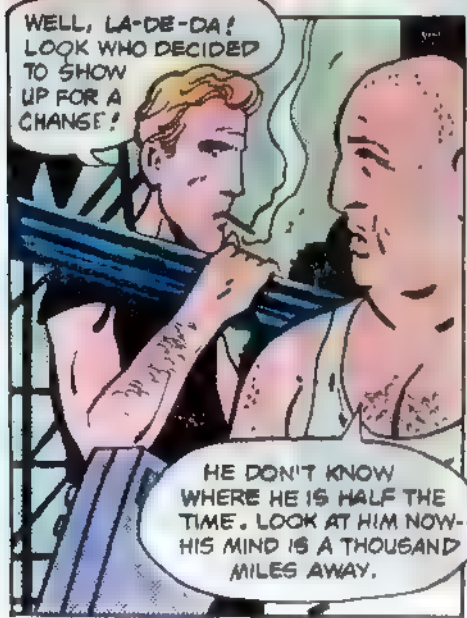


THIS AUDIO COMPUTER TERMINAL BUILT INTO THE EAR STEM OF MY GLASSES SURE COMES IN HANDY WHEN I HAVE TO BE ON THE JOB AS CLARK KENT.

THERE'S JUST ONE THING I'D STILL LIKE TO KNOW.



WHAT IN THE UNIVERSE IS A CATIFF??



WELL, LA-DE-DA! LOOK WHO DECIDED TO SHOW UP FOR A CHANGE!

HE DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS HALF THE TIME. LOOK AT HIM NOW-- HIS MIND IS A THOUSAND MILES AWAY.

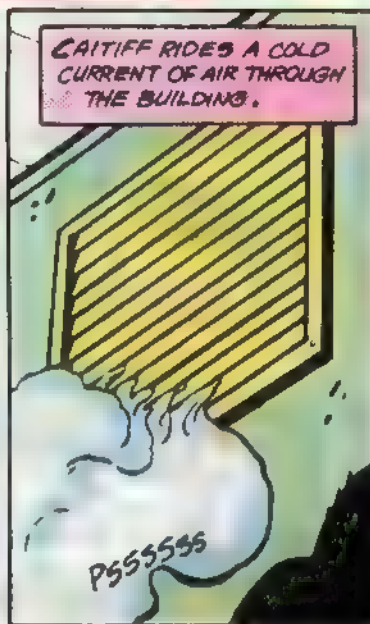
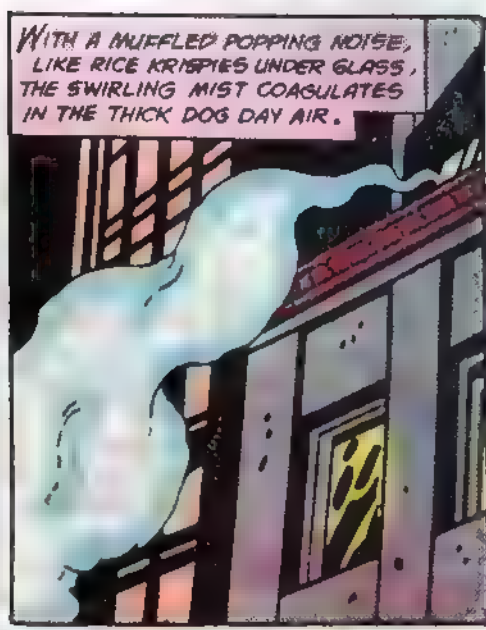


I DON'T GET IT, JOSH. FOR ONCE KENT SHOWS UP EARLY AND YOU'RE ACTING MORE NERVOUS THAN EVER! WHAT GIVES?

YOU BELIEVE KENT IS HERE, J.C. AND I BELIEVE KENT IS HERE.



IT'S MY STOMACH THAT'S SKEPTICAL!



THIS IS THE WGBS EVENING NEWS WITH CLARK KENT AND LOIS LANE...

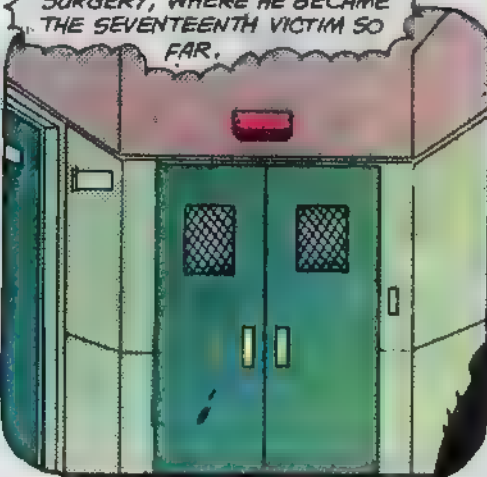
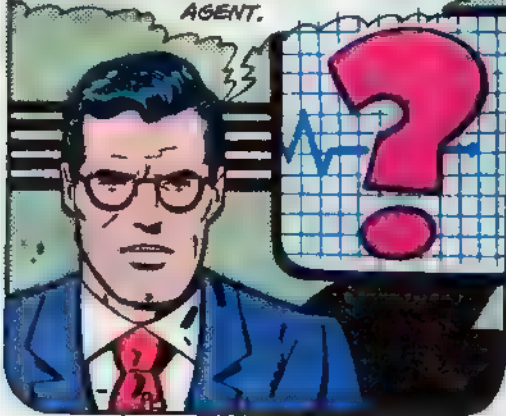
TONIGHT BROUGHT TO YOU BY SCRAM! GOT PESTS? GET SCRAM!

THE WGBS EVENING NEWS WITH CLARK KENT *and*



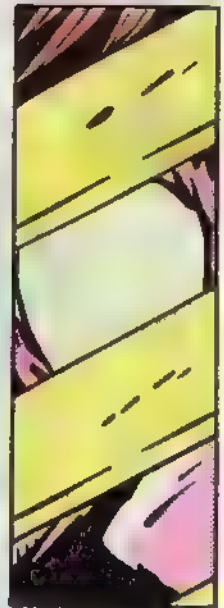
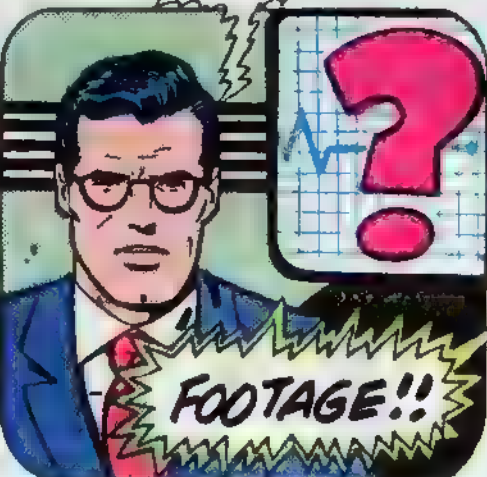
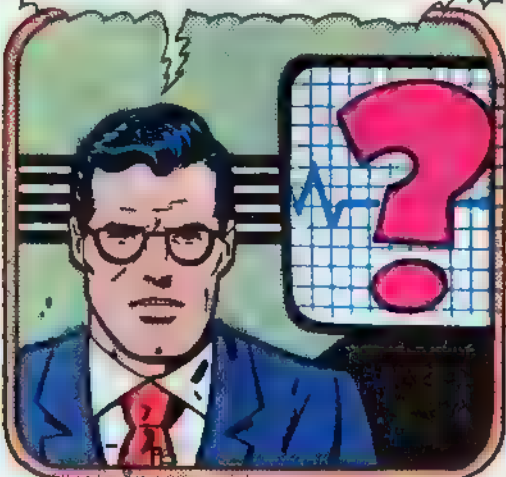
GOOD EVENING--I'M CLARK KENT AT THE CHANNEL 8 NEWS-DESK WITH THE 6 O'CLOCK REPORT...THE DEATH OF YET ANOTHER PATIENT AT THE METROPOLIS CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL HAS RAISED NEW QUESTIONS OF A POSSIBLE MAJOR NEW INFECTIOUS AGENT.

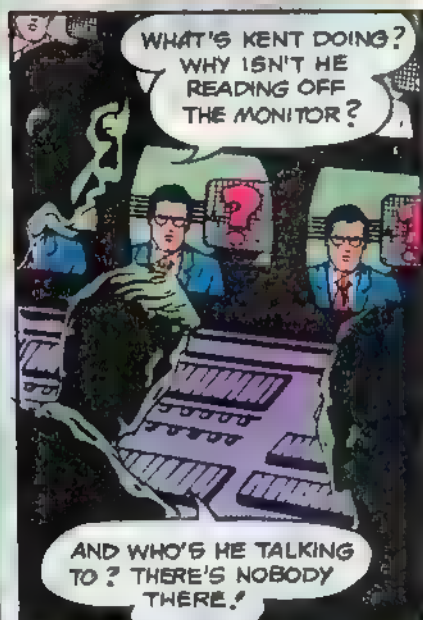
AS AN INVESTIGATION CONTINUED TODAY INTO THE CAUSE OF THE MYSTERIOUS DEATHS, SAM PETRONIO WAS RUSHED INTO EMERGENCY SURGERY, WHERE HE BECAME THE SEVENTEENTH VICTIM SO FAR.

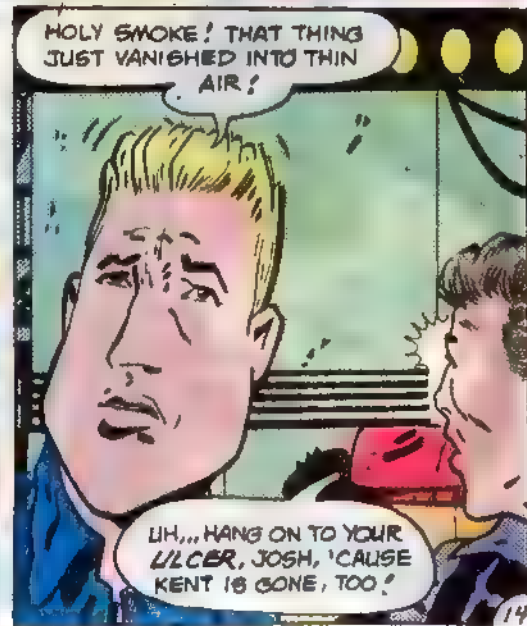
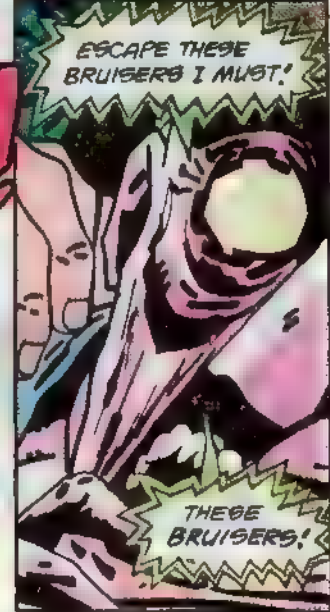


IN JUST A FEW MOMENTS, I'LL BE JOINED BY MEMBERS OF MR. PETRONIO'S FAMILY, AND BY PHYSICIANS FROM THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL.

BUT FIRST, WGBS HAS OBTAINED EXCLUSIVE FOOTAGE--







I HATE TO DO THIS TO JOSH,
BUT CAPTURING A MURDERER
TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER
CLARK KENT'S ANCHOR
JOB!

BESIDES, I'VE X-RAY-
CHECKED JOSH'S ULCER,
AND IT'S REALLY NOTHING
MORE SERIOUS THAN A
NERVOUS STOMACH.

WHICH REMINDS ME...

... I HAVE TO
KEEP AN EYE
ON CAITIFF.

UH-OH! HE'S ESCAPING
INTO THE SEWERS!

IT'LL BE DIFFICULT TO
TRACK HIM DOWN THERE,
DUE TO ALL THE LEAD-
LINED PIPE. MY X-RAY
VISION CAN'T PENETRATE
LEAD.

I REALLY HATE TO DO
THIS, BUT THE VAM-
PIRE LEAVES ME
NO CHOICE.



IMAGINE TAKING UP SMOKING AT MY AGE!

OOOOSH

HALFWAY TO SAFETY, CAITIFF FEELS THE IRRESISTIBLE TUG OF SUPERMAN'S MIGHTY BREATH, TO HIS HORROR, HE IS INHALED.

INSIDE THE CHEST WALL OF STEEL, CAITIFF EXPANDS AND CONTRACTS, EXPLORING HIS BIZARRE NEW SURROUNDINGS. HE SLIDES FROM THE LEFT LUNG INTO THE RIGHT, AND THEN BACK AGAIN. THEY ARE DAMP AND SPONGY AND VERY, VERY DARK...NOT A BAD PLACE FOR A VAMPIRE.

WHAT IN BLAZES IS HE DOING IN THERE?

CAITIFF SOON COMES TO AN UNHAPPY CONCLUSION. AS NICE AND ROOMY AS HIS NEW RESIDENCE MAY BE, IT IS NOT THE SORT OF PLACE A VAMPIRE CALLS HOME.

FOR CENTURIES, CAITIFF HAS PREYED ON THE WEAK AND THE DYING, SUBSISTING ON WHAT WOULD BE THE HUMAN EQUIVALENT OF A NICE, LIGHT SNACK. NOW CAITIFF BRACES HIMSELF FOR A SOMEWHAT LARGER CHALLENGE.

IT'S TIME TO PIG OUT!

THAT'S BETTER! HE'S FINALLY SETTLED--

---DOWN?

WOW!!!

SKREEEEEEK

IT'S A WEIRD SENSATION, BLACKING OUT.

POOM!

FEELS LIKE FALLING.

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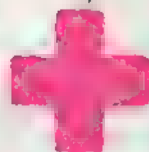
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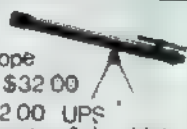
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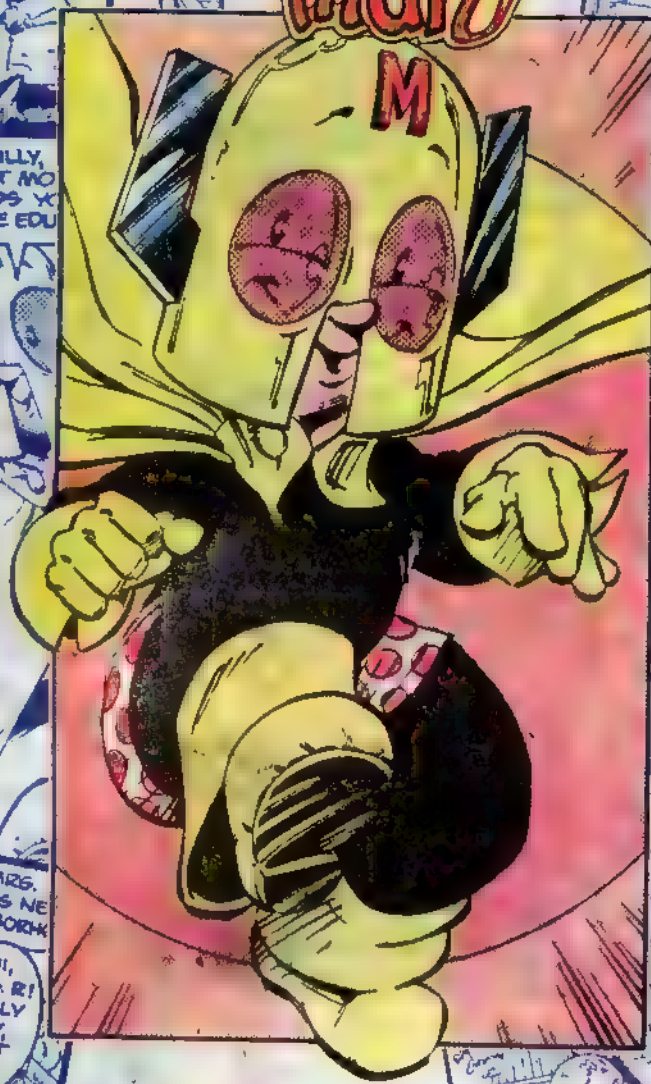
WHAT A
BOY SCOUT!
HELPING BUDDY
STAGGER ACROSS
THE STREET!

IN THIS CRAZY
WORLD, WE ALL
NEED A FRIEND
LIKE...

BUENOS DIAS,
SEÑORA TIRADO!
HOW'S LITTLE
HELENITA TODAY?

BUENO. BUENO.
SHE EAT ALL HER
FAIZ'NA TODAY.

Amazing man



HERE, BILLY,
DEPOSIT MO
TOWARDS Y
COLLEGE EDU

IT'S
OC-CLIP-
PIED!

SO
YOU'RE PLAYING
WATCHMAN,
EH?

OH, THAT'S MRS.
RIVERA. SHE'S NE
TO THE NEIGHBORH

HI, MRS. R!
LOVELY
DAY. ISN'T
IT?

NUM-NUM-NUM-

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

OH. UH.. I
WANTED TO SLIDE
UP THE RAILING.

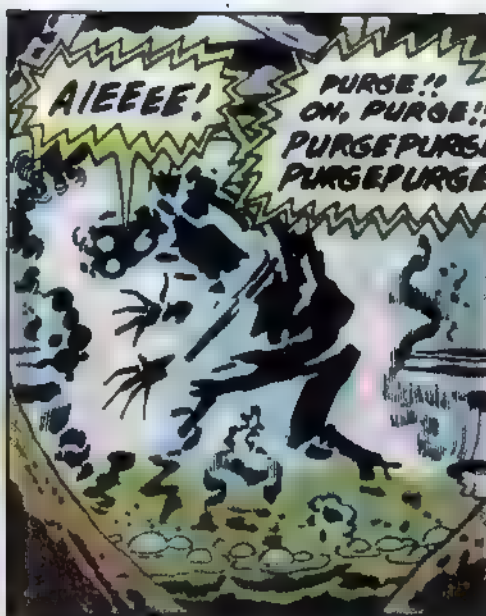
THE MOST
ORIGINAL
HERO IN DECADES!

NEW FROM





BZZZZ-ZZZZ-
ZZZZ-ZZZ

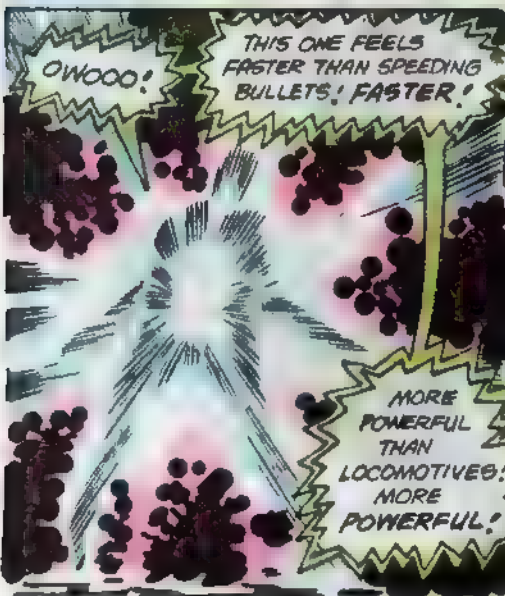


AIEEEE!

PURGE!!
ON, PURGE!!
PURGEPURGE
PURGEPURGE!!



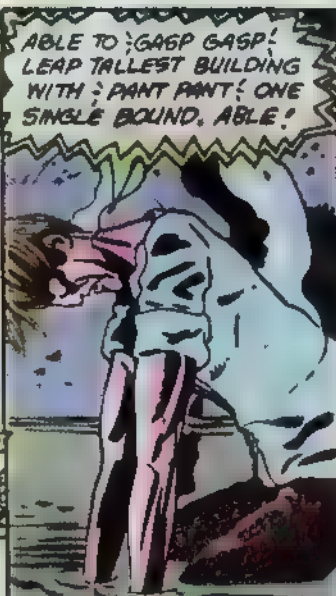
BELCH!



OOWOO!

THIS ONE FEELS
FASTER THAN SPEEDING
BULLETS! FASTER!

MORE
POWERFUL
THAN
LOCOMOTIVES!
MORE
POWERFUL!



ABLE TO GASP GASP!
LEAP TALLEST BUILDING
WITH PANT PANT! ONE
SINGLE BOUND. ABLE!

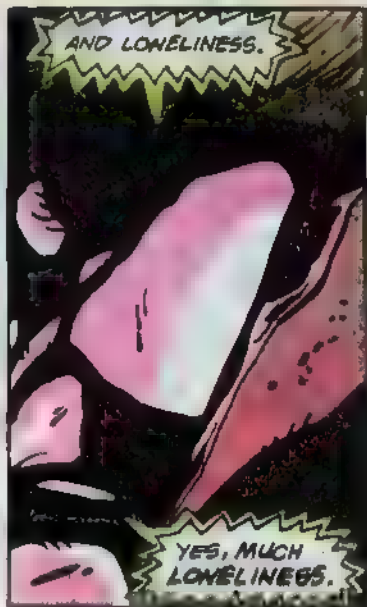


DARN SICKENING IT WAS!
DARN SICKENING!

PTUH.

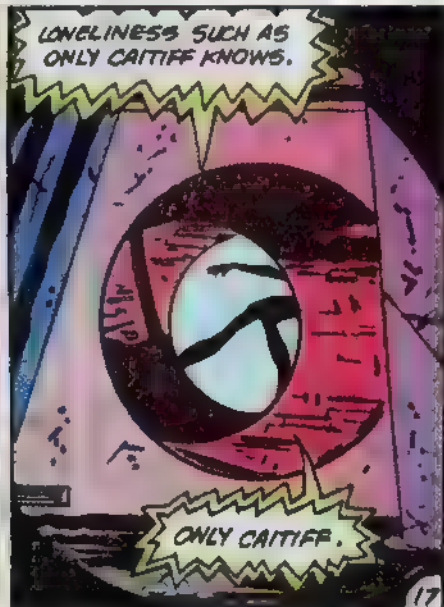


YET SUCH POWER THIS
ONE FELT. SUCH POWER
AND RESPONSIBILITY.



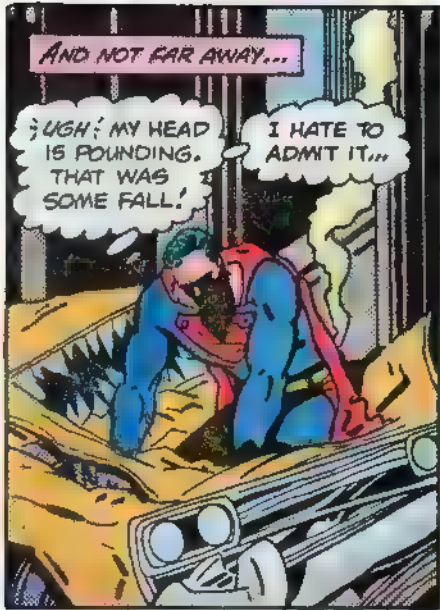
AND LONELINESS.

YES, MUCH
LONELINESS.



LONELINESS SUCH AS
ONLY CAITIFF KNOWS.

ONLY CAITIFF.



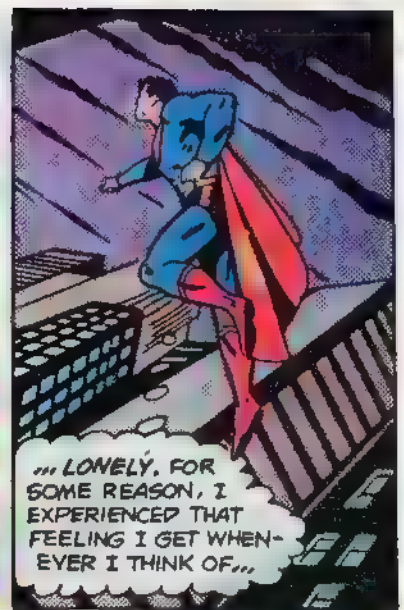
AND NOT FAR AWAY...

UGH! MY HEAD IS POUNDING. THAT WAS SOME FALL!

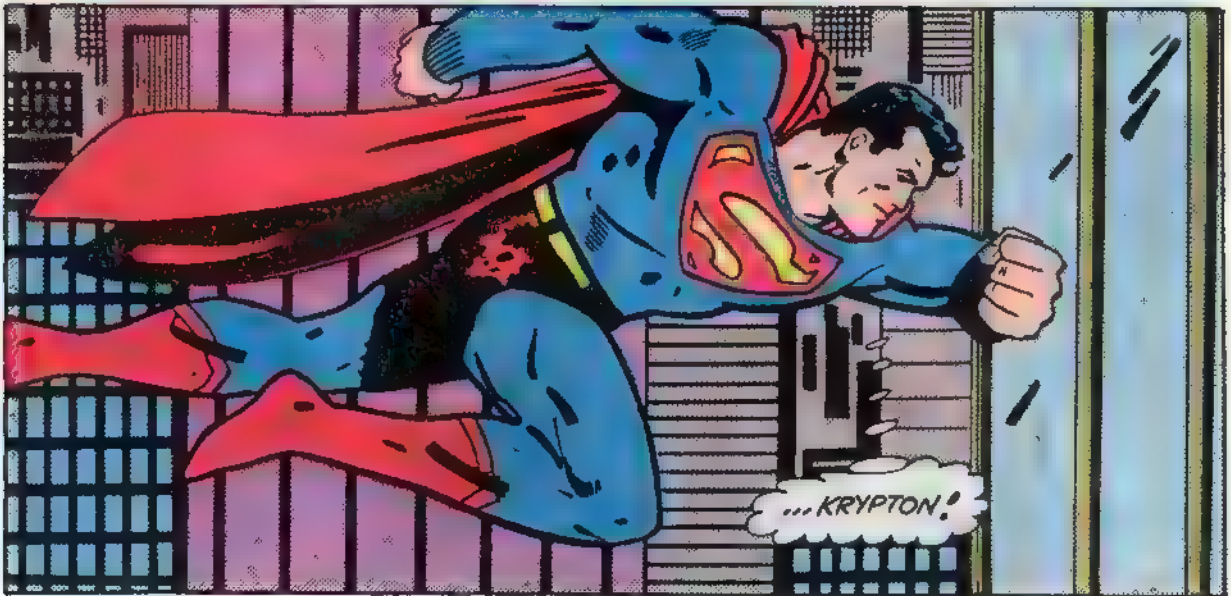
I HATE TO ADMIT IT...



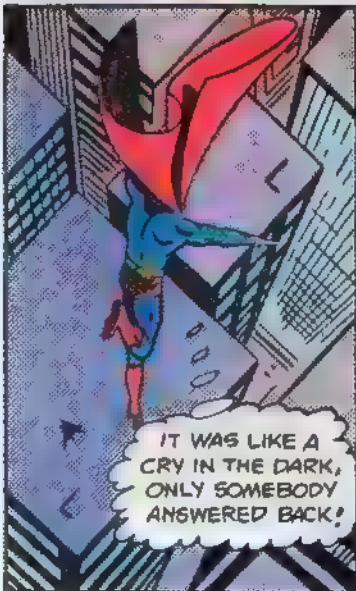
NO, NOT SCARED...



...LOVELY. FOR SOME REASON, I EXPERIENCED THAT FEELING I GET WHENEVER I THINK OF...



...KRYPTON!



IT WAS LIKE A CRY IN THE DARK, ONLY SOMEBODY ANSWERED BACK!



I'M NORMALLY NOT ONE TO FEEL SORRY FOR MYSELF, ALTHOUGH I'VE HAD MY SHARE OF TRAGEDY.

BUT THIS CAITIFF IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN I THOUGHT. HE STRUCK ME WHERE I'M MOST VULNERABLE.

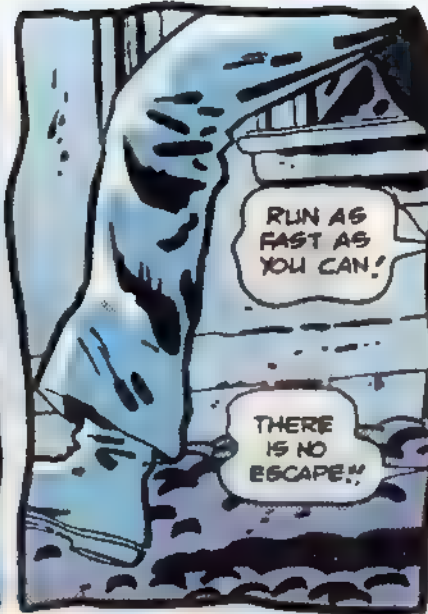


HE HURT MY FEELINGS.



HAHAHAHA!

I THINK WE'VE
HURT HIS
FEELINGS!



RUN AS
FAST AS
YOU CAN!

THERE
IS NO
ESCAPE!!



THIS ONE PANT PANT!
THIS ONE IS SORRY!
SO SORRY! PANT PANT!
PLEASE TO FORGIVE
THIS ONE!



PLEASE!

WHMP!

OH!



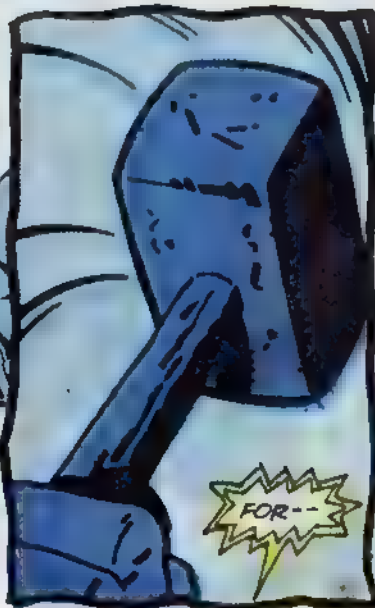
SORRY!
OH SORRY!
PLEASE NOT--



--THE
STAKE!!



CAITIFF
BEGS FOR
MERCY!



FOR--



--MERCY.

WAKING ABRUPTLY, CAITIFF FINDS HIMSELF BATHED IN A COLD SWEAT. HE REACTS NORMALLY, FOR A CHANGE, TO THE DAMPNES AND CHILL... HE SHUDERS VIOLENTLY, REMEMBERING HIS NIGHTMARE, HE WHISPERS THE WORD THAT WOKE HIM: MERCY.

VAMPIRE. GHUL. DEMON. ZOMBIE. BY THESE AND OTHER NAMES, MEN HAVE TRIED TO EXPLAIN CREATURES LIKE CAITIFF. THE CLOSEST APPROXIMATION TO THE TRUTH WAS THE MOST FAR-FETCHED. GRIM REAPER. HARVESTER OF THE DYING.

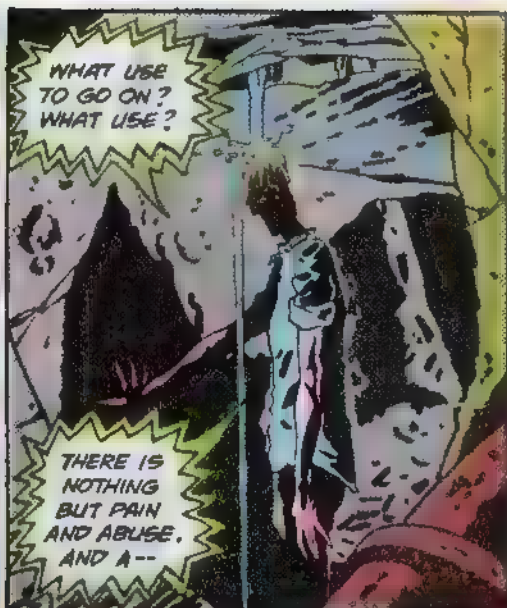
CAITIFF HAS AN ANIMAL INSTINCT FOR DEATH. HE CAN SMELL IT COMING A LONG WAY OFF. HE FEEDS ON THE DYING, BECAUSE IT'S EASY. THEY'RE TOO WEAK TO STRUGGLE. CAITIFF LIKES TO THINK THAT HE'S DOING THEM A FAVOR.

HE'S A MERCY KILLER.

MERCY FOR EVERYONE, BUT FOR THIS ONE --



--NONE!

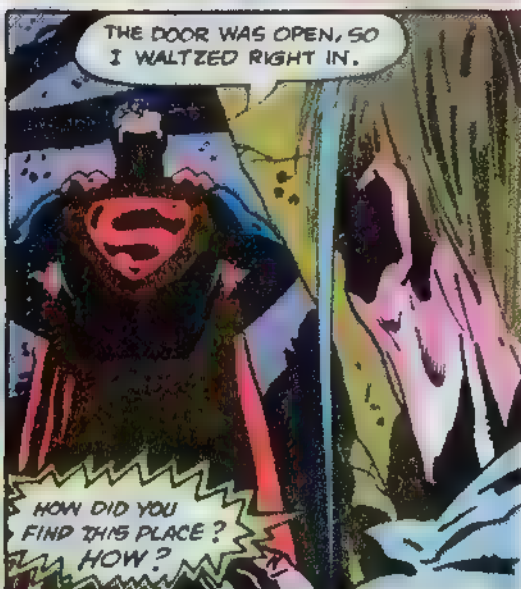


WHAT USE TO GO ON? WHAT USE?

THERE IS NOTHING BUT PAIN AND ABUSE. AND A--



--YOU!!



THE DOOR WAS OPEN, SO I WALTZED RIGHT IN.

HOW DID YOU FIND THIS PLACE? HOW?

IT WAS EASY. I JUST RAN AT SUPER-SPEED THROUGH THE ENTIRE CITY OF METROPOLIS' SEWER SYSTEM UNTIL I SPOTTED YOU.



SMELLY... BUT EFFECTIVE.

AND NOW IT'S MY DUTY TO DELIVER YOU TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES.



NO!

KILL CAITIFF THEY WILL! KILL!!



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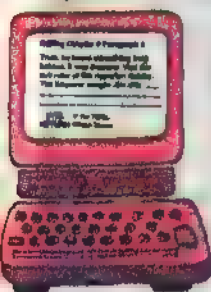
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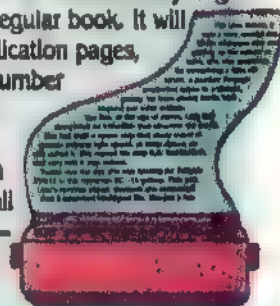
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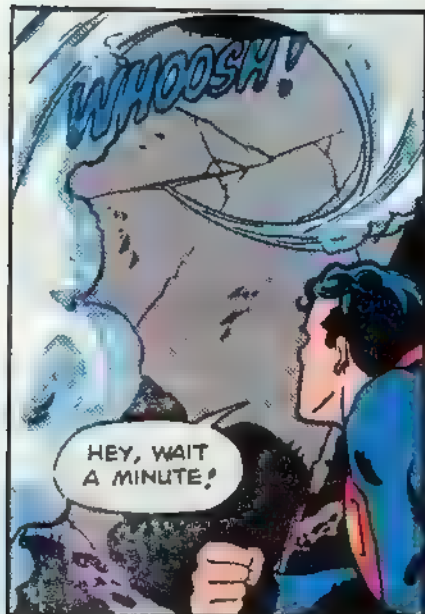
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SUPERMAN IS COMPLETELY UNPREPARED FOR THE GRISLY SCENE THAT GREET'S HIM IN CAITIFF'S HIDDEN LAIR. EVERYWHERE HE LOOKS ARE BODIES, HUNDREDS OF THEM. SUDDENLY, HIS PAINFUL MEMORY OF KRYPTON REASSERTS ITSELF, AND SUPERMAN SEES FAMILIES WHERE THERE ARE ONLY BONES.

YOU... YOU FIEND!!

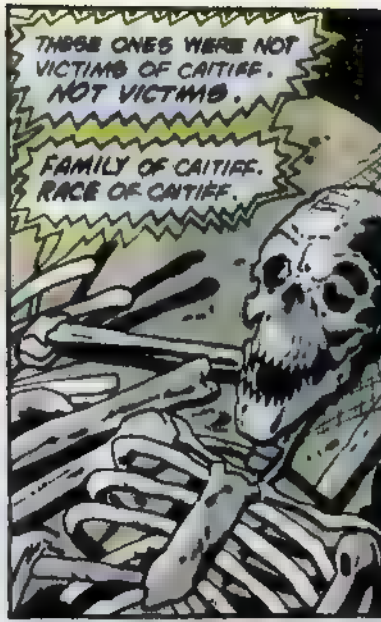
**THESE BODIES...
ARE YOUR VICTIMS,
AREN'T THEY?
YOU BUTCHER!!**

**WHAT KIND OF
MONSTER IS
CAPABLE OF SUCH
CARNAGE?**



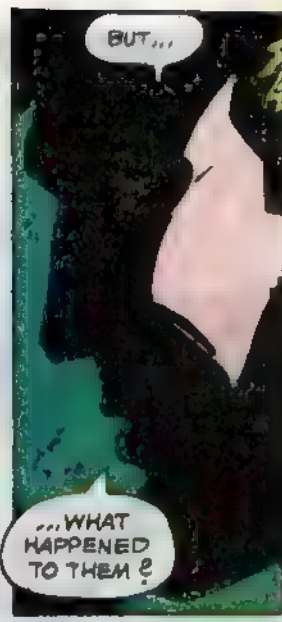
MAN IS CAPABLE.

MAN.



THESE ONES WERE NOT VICTIMS OF CAITIFF. NOT VICTIMS.

FAMILY OF CAITIFF. RACE OF CAITIFF.

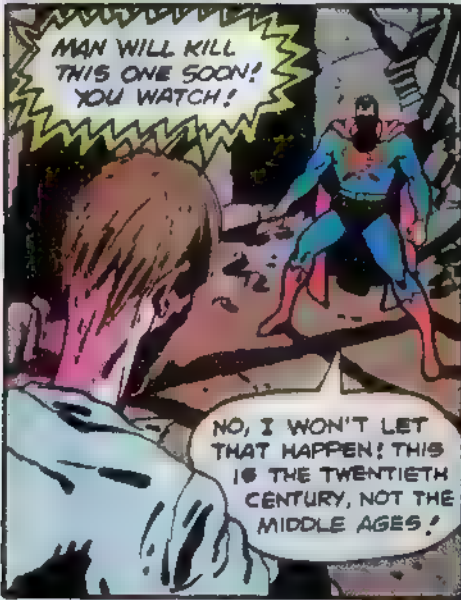


BUT...

...WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?



MAN HAPPENED! MAN MURDERED!!



MAN WILL KILL THIS ONE SOON! YOU WATCH!

NO, I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN! THIS IS THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, NOT THE MIDDLE AGES!



WE'LL FIND A CURE FOR YOUR CONDITION, AMERICAN SCIENTISTS--



SCIENTISTS! SPEAK NOT OF SCIENTISTS!!



AMERICAN SCIENTISTS TOOK THIS ONE'S CHILD! AMERICAN SCIENTISTS!



THEY DID THE DISECT-THING TO CAITIFF'S CHILD!



NOW CAITIFF IS LIKE YOU--THE LAST.

THE LAST LIVING ONE.

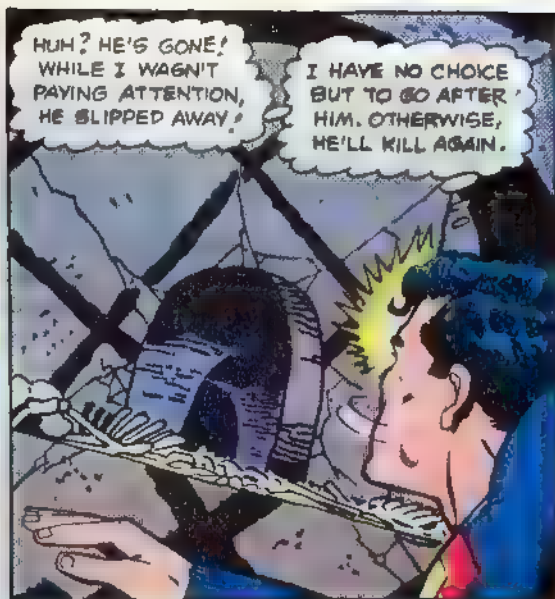


HE'S...HE'S
RIGHT!

LIKE HIM,
I'M THE SOLE
SURVIVOR OF
MY RACE!

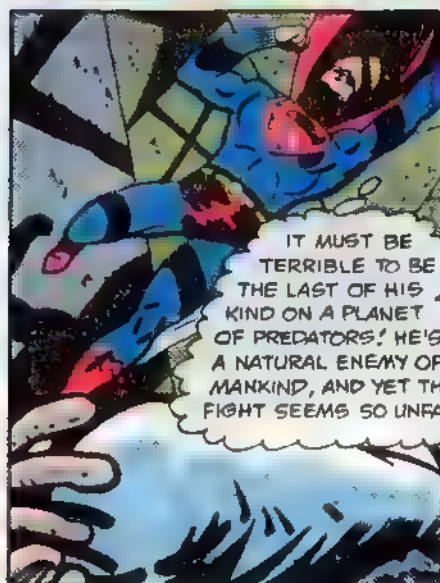


I KNOW EXACTLY
HOW HE FEELS.



HUH? HE'S GONE!
WHILE I WASN'T
PAYING ATTENTION,
HE SLIPPED AWAY!

I HAVE NO CHOICE
BUT TO GO AFTER
HIM. OTHERWISE,
HE'LL KILL AGAIN.



IT MUST BE
TERRIBLE TO BE
THE LAST OF HIS
KIND ON A PLANET
OF PREDATORS! HE'S
A NATURAL ENEMY OF
MANKIND, AND YET THE
FIGHT SEEMS SO UNFAIR!



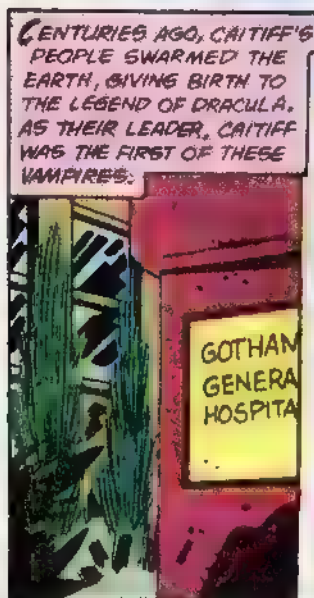
IF I WERE IN HIS
POSITION, WHAT
WOULD I DO?



THAT'S EASY.
I'D SURVIVE.



I'D SURVIVE
AT ALL COST,
FOR THE SAKE
OF MY RACE!

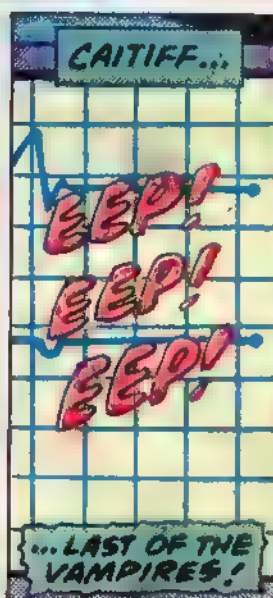


CENTURIES AGO, CAITIFF'S
PEOPLE SWARMED THE
EARTH, GIVING BIRTH TO
THE LEGEND OF DRACULA.
AS THEIR LEADER, CAITIFF
WAS THE FIRST OF THESE
VAMPIRES.



INTENSIVE
CARE

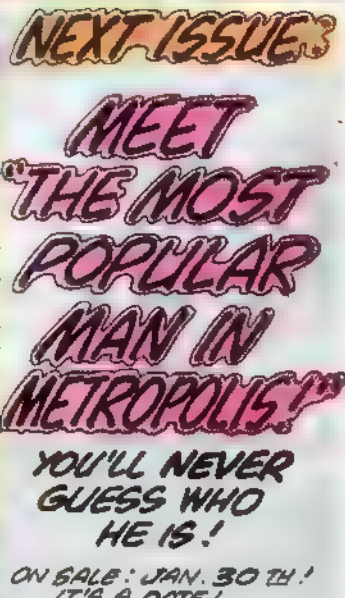
NOW HIS PEOPLE
ARE GONE, BUT HE
CARRIES ON ALONE,
IN THEIR NAME.



CAITIFF...

EEP!
EEP!
EEP!

...LAST OF THE
VAMPIRES!

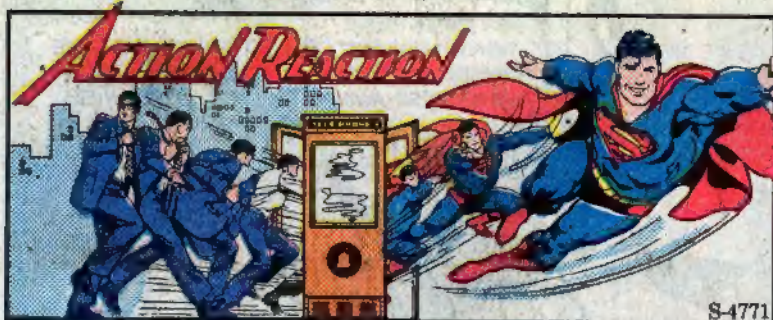


NEXT ISSUE

MEET
"THE MOST
POPULAR
MAN IN
METROPOLIS!"

YOU'LL NEVER
GUESS WHO
HE IS!

ON SALE: JAN. 30 TH!
IT'S A DATE!



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Dear Julie, Bob, and Laurie,

When *ACTION* and *SUPERMAN* switched to the shorter story format, I was not pleased. With time, however, I came to enjoy the little gems featured in these pages, especially those written by Craig Boldman, such as "Sale of the Century" in *ACTION* #573. His "Traumas in the Bahamas" and "The Superman Who Came to Dinner" in #566 and 570 were also standouts.

After reading the Lex Luthor story line in more recent issues of *SUPERMAN*, though, I realized how much I missed Cary Bates' style of scripting (...even more so with the demise of a certain Scarlet Speedster).

Why not effect some sort of compromise? Simply let Craig and company continue to provide the fun in *ACTION*, while letting Mr. Surprise weave his wonders in *SUPERMAN*. Who says you can't please everyone?

Laurie, I so enjoy the way you've come to share these columns with Bob. Together or apart, these columns have become totally unique.

I believe the cover on which Bob appears is that of *SUPERMAN* #289. Perhaps you can tell the readers who else appears—Cary Bates? Elliot Maggin? And why is Julie absent?

Best of all, even on that ten-year-old cover, Bob was ... "looking up in the sky."

JOE TORCIVIA
16 Branch Lane
Levittown, NY 11756

Joe, Cary Bates, Nelson Bridwell, Jack C. Harris, Carl Gafford—and of course Bob!—appeared on that famous cover. It was lunchtime and Julie was playing bridge with Milt Snapinn. Austin McLean and Karl Behrendt also wrote in with the correct issue number—thanks! As for Bob "looking up in the sky," lately it's been to catch those fly balls as the DC softball team pounds the opposition into the ground (this means they've won two games this season!)—LR

Dear Editor, Bob, Laurie...

I've heard it said that it's tough to get to be a comic book writer, get the experience, to make the jump from amateur to professional. It's certainly no piece of cake to be an artist, but at least they can often sign on as an assistant to an experienced artist and learn about the business that way.

Thus, I always enjoy seeing new people getting a shot at writing the Big Time.

Issue #573 was notable in the "new writer" department. Credits on the two stories were given to Craig Boldman, David Campiti, and Kevin Juarez—none of whom are exactly household names. The policy of using shorter stories in *ACTION* and in general having each story complete in each issue no doubt makes it easier to use a variety of writers than with a mag that has a strict, continuing story line, and I'm glad to see Julie use this opportunity to use some new writers. In fact, I think Julie has been notable for giving a chance to a lot of relatively untried talent and for that I applaud him. I am sure that it requires more time and effort on his part as editor, but I think it is necessary to keep infusing new blood and that it also pays off in giving us readers something different.

In "The Sale of the Century," Boldman gives us a nicely ironic little tale with a few twists and turns. He captures a lighthearted yet cynical approach that sits well on Wolfingham. One objection that I would have, though, is that *Superman's* participation in the con comes uncomfortably close to violating his oath of honesty. The back-up tale, by Campiti and Juarez, is the weaker of the two stories but at least has the advantage of being told from a refreshing perspective, that of a street vendor. The reactions of the "ordinary" citizens to the stupendous wonder that is *Superman* is worthy of further attention.

In the art department of this issue, Julie used a couple of fellows who are far from being newcomers—Kurt Schaffenberger and Alex Saviuk. But you won't hear any complaints from me on that! Their work was solid and enjoyable, as usual.

T.M. MAPLE
Box 1272, Station B
Weston, ONT M9L2R9

T.M., a certain writer I happen to live with got his first break from Julie ... and we all know where that led!—LR

Dear Julie and Bob,

ACTION #573 was a delight! The gentle whimsy of "The Sale of the Century" was especially welcome, as just before reading it I had finished another depressing issue of *CRISIS*. I

will be so glad when that depressing and gloomy exercise in genocide and destruction is done.

"If I Were Superman..." was also entertaining. Alex Saviuk's art was very good.

I have been hearing rumors of a possible *Superman IV* movie. Anything definite? Will Julie really audition?

MICHAEL E. OWENS
7703 Tisdale Dr.
Austin, TX 78757

Michael, *Superman IV* is planned for '86. Julie would make a great Perry White, eh?—LR

Dear Julie,

Superman was really annoyed in *ACTION* #573. He's usually so level-headed—I'm surprised he got so emotional with Wolfingham. This was an extreme case, though, and so I understand his cause for upset. I was wondering if Supey has dealt with Wolfingham previously. I get the impression that he has.

JEFF MITCHELL
Rte. 1, Box 154
Rush City, MN 55069

Wolfingham has been around sporadically since the 1940's, Jeff. That's a lot of years for Supes to become exasperated!—LR

Dear Editor,

"The Sale of the Century" and "If I Were Superman" were both great. The artwork—especially with the Howard Bender/Murphy Anderson cover—captures the heart of the matter. The interior artwork was great, as usual. I love the Saviuk/Schaffenberger team. Craig Boldman and David Campiti/Kevin Juarez made the stories very interesting. I was especially glad to see the return of an old-time villain here. I hope that Boldman will continue this practice and revive even more old-timers.

CHARLES DAVID HASKELL
15 W. 139 St., Apt. 4R
NY, NY 10037

Thanks for the kind words, Charles, and hope to hear from you all again next month. In the meantime, as Bob always says (especially in his capacity as captain of the baseball team), "Look, up in the sky..."—Laurie Rozakis



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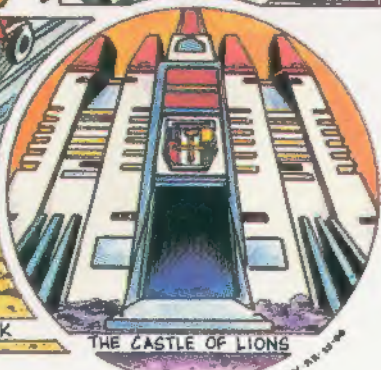
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No. 68

DCP, 2004

ACTION COMICS

